

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A device for use as an external stabilizer of a heart base comprising a strip of biocompatible, implantable material comprising a top edge and a bottom edge [[,]] having a width therebetween, wherein ~~the width from the top edge to the bottom edge being~~ is about 2 ~~[[and]]~~ to 5 cms, and wherein the device is ~~used to prevent~~ prevents basal dilation during all cardiac phases.

2. (previously presented) The device of claim 1, further comprising a center portion.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The device of claim 2, wherein the center portion further comprises an open mesh.

5. (previously presented) The device of claim 4, wherein the open mesh further comprises opening sizes between 2 mm to 2 cm, when measured along the longest axis.

6. (original) The device of claim 2, wherein the top and bottom edge further comprise a metal.

7. (previously presented) The device of claim 2, wherein the center portion further comprises a polyester mesh.

8. (canceled)

9. (original) The device of claim 2, further comprising attachment members.

10. (original) The device of claim 9, wherein the attachment members further comprise eyelets.

11. (currently amended) A method for treating heart disorders comprising ~~epicardial placement of~~ epicardially placing a device according to claim 1 around the base of the heart.

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 11, ~~wherein the device is placed in~~ further comprising placing the device in the atrio-ventricular groove.

13. to 36. (canceled)